

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Public Utilities Commission  
San Francisco

**M e m o r a n d u m**

**Date:** July 12, 2002

**To:** The Commission  
(Meeting of July 17, 2002)

**From:** Bill Julian  
Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA) — Sacramento

**Subject:** **SB 1311 (Kuehl) Commercial mobile radio service: public safety agencies.**

**As Amended April 16, 2002**

**RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT:** The CPUC should support this bill since its primary focus is to assist public safety agencies communicate effectively during an emergency. Many emergency response and rescue departments across the state use digital electronic devices, most commonly cellular phones, to communicate in emergent situations while in the field. Due to widespread cellular phone usage, emergency response teams in large metropolitan areas have encountered difficulties when trying to communicate with colleagues. This bill would give such calls priority in the interest of public safety. The purpose of the bill is to give transmissions from public safety agencies' end users of commercial mobile radio service priority over transmissions from other persons or entities.

**SUMMARY:** This bill provides that providers of commercial mobile radio service may enter into a contract with a public safety agency to give transmissions from the public safety agency's end users priority over transmissions from other persons or entities. The bill requires any such contract to comply with applicable federal law.

**ANALYSIS:** Existing law requires a provider of commercial mobile radio service to provide access for end users of that service to the local emergency telephone systems described in the Warren –911-Emergency Assistance Act (See P.U. Code Section 2892).

A provider of commercial mobile radio service, in accordance with all applicable Federal Communication Commission orders, shall transmit all "911" calls from technologically compatible commercial mobile radio service communication devices without requiring user validation or any similar procedure. Moreover, a provider of commercial mobile radio service may not charge any airtime, access, or similar usage charge for any "911" call placed from a commercial mobile radio service telecommunications device to a local emergency system.

This bill provides that providers of commercial mobile radio service may enter into a contract with a public safety agency to give transmissions from the public safety agency's end users of that service priority over transmissions from other persons or entities. The bill requires any such contract to comply with federal law.

### **SUPPORT/OPPOSITION**

#### **Support:**

California State Firefighters Association (Sponsor)  
Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff's Association  
Los Angeles Police Protective League  
Police Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)  
Riverside Sheriff's Association  
Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

#### **Opposition:**

AT&T Wireless  
Verizon Wireless

#### **Legislative Staff Contact:**

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**Date:** June 19, 2002

Attachment

BJ2:abh

**BILL LANGUAGE:**

BILL NUMBER: SB 1311    AMENDED  
BILL TEXT

AMENDED IN SENATE    APRIL 16, 2002

INTRODUCED BY    Senator Kuehl

JANUARY 23, 2002

An act to add Section 2892.5 to the Public Utilities Code,  
relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1311, as amended, Kuehl. Commercial mobile radio service:  
public safety agencies.

Existing law requires a provider of commercial mobile radio  
service, as defined, to provide access for end users of that service  
to the local emergency telephone systems described in the  
Warren-911-Emergency Assistance Act.

This bill would authorize a provider of commercial mobile radio  
service to enter into a contract with a public safety agency, as  
defined, to give the transmissions of public safety agency end users  
of that service priority over the transmissions of other persons or  
entities. *The bill would require that the contract comply with  
applicable federal law.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 2892.5 is added to the Public Utilities Code,  
to read:

2892.5. (a) As used in this section, the following terms have the  
following meanings:

(1) "Commercial mobile radio service" has the same meaning as the  
term "commercial mobile service," as defined in subsection (d) of  
Section 332 of Title 47 of the United States Code.

(2) "Public safety agency" has the same meaning as that term is  
defined in Section 53102 of the Government Code.

(b) A provider of commercial mobile radio service may enter into a  
contract with a public safety agency to give the transmissions of  
public safety agency end users of that service priority over the  
transmissions of other persons or entities. *The contract shall  
comply with applicable federal law.*